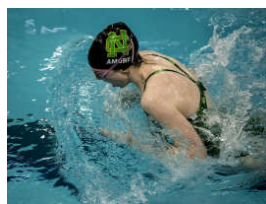


Heath, NC standouts deliver impressive sectional swims



Kurt Snyder, ksnyder@newarkadvocate.com

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(Photo: Jessica Phelps/The Advocate)

GAHANNA – Trevor Price looked to his right Saturday and decided he had better kick it into gear. If not, the Heath senior was in danger of being left behind.

Strong competition pushed Price to a personal-best time in the 100 yard freestyle, and it was one of two impressive performances for him during the Division II sectional meet at Columbus Academy. Price placed fourth in the 100 free (55.70) and sixth in the 50 free (25.36).

"I knew some of the swimmers from past experience and that this was the fastest of the fastest," said Price, who had three Academy standouts in his heat. "I knew I had to give it all I had to keep up the best I could."

Price fell shy of automatic qualification to Friday's district meet at Ohio University, but he will almost certainly receive an at-large berth in each event when those are handed out later in the weekend.

Other top area performers Saturday were Lakewood's Nathaniel Graham, who was third in the 100 backstroke (1:00.50) and fourth in the 200 free (1:57.07), and teammate John Hoffman, who was fifth in the 100 butterfly (1:02.54).

Price was in the next-to-last heat of the 50 free, and he felt more at ease, winning that heat from a middle lane. Granville's Colin McDermott, however, was right behind the whole way.

"I like having someone pushing me in the lane next to me, and it is even better when it is one of your friends or someone you know because you are always in that competition mode," Price said. "I like having someone close to my level."

Mat Scott placed eighth in the 100 free (59.33) to lead Northridge, and Curtis Boren, Newark Catholic's only competitor, placed 10th in the 50 free (26.65).

In the girls meet, NC's Megan Stanton has just about caught up to speed. The sophomore has one more week to reach her peak. She placed fifth in the 50 free (27.06) and sixth in the 100 free (59.05).

"I am not fully tapered yet, but I definitely swam to the best of my ability in this pool," Stanton said. "I have really been working hard at club doing a lot of sprints and stuff to get ready for my sprinting events. This weekend, I am going to slow it down and do less yardage to work on getting better and hopefully peak at the right time."

Stanton has added the 50 free to her repertoire this season, and she said the added speed should allow her to lower the personal-best time of 57.91 she swam in the 100 free during the 2014 district meet.

"I feel good about where I am compared to last year," Stanton said. "Last year, I was not a 50 freestyler, and this year I am showing really great times. Hopefully, I will be able to even lower them at districts."

Northridge's Katelyn Darby placed seventh in the 200 individual medley (2:28.22) and eighth in the 500 free (6:04.77), and Shelby Graham's 11th in the 100 breaststroke (1:21.97) was Lakewood's top individual finisher.

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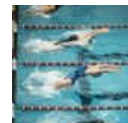
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